## White-Nose Syndrome

- WNS is caused by Geomyces destructans, a cold-adapted fungus that invades the skin of hibernating bats
- № Bats with WNS arouse from hibernation more frequently than healthy bats, depleting their fat stores early
- Bats with WNS die from dehydration, starvation, or exposure to cold temperatures



Bat with suspected white-nose syndrome in Fayette County, Pa



White-Nose
Syndrome
&
Wyoming Bats

What you can do to keep our bats safe





Wyoming Game & Fish Department

## Wyoming's Bats

- Wyoming is home to 18 species of bats
- Wyoming bats are important insect predators capable of eating their body weight in insects each night



Sats have good eyesight but use echolocation to sense their surroundings in the dark



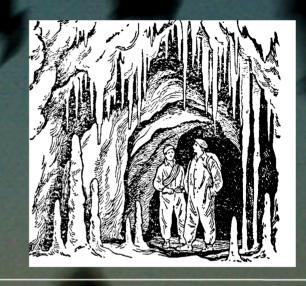
- Wyoming bats reproduce only once per year and can live up to 20-30 years
- Female bats give birth to only 1 or 2 pups per litter

## How is WNS spread?

- Susceptible to WNS are colonial and can transfer the fungus to each other
- Human-to-Cave: Humans visiting healthy caves with infected clothing can transfer the fungus
- Cave-to-Bat: Healthy bats can be exposed to infected cave substrates



Likely WNS symptoms at Breathing Cave, Bath County, Virginia, late February 2009



## How can YOU help?

- ➡ BE AWARE of cave closures on public land
- AVOID entry into caves or abandoned mines used by bats.
- DECONTAMINATE clothing, footwear, and gear before entering caves or mines
- ✓ DO NOT DISTURB hibernating bats
- REPORT bats with WNS symptoms, unusual behavior, or numerous bat fatalities to the Game & Fish Department (see back panel)